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REMARKS

Claims 11, 13 to 15, 17, 18 and 23 to 36 are pending in this application, of which claims 11 and 27 are the independent claims. Favorable reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Initially, the Examiner objected to the drawings because items 32, 34, 36 and 38 were not included in the drawings and item 12 in the drawings was not included in the specification.

Applicants have removed item 12 from FIG. 1 and added items 32, 34, 36 and 38 to FIG. 2.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the drawing objections.

The Examiner rejected 4, 7, 16, 17, 22 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claims 4, 7 and 22 are cancelled. Claim 16 was rejected because "the author" did not have proper antecedent basis. Claim 17 was rejected because "this author" did not have proper antecedent basis. Claim 26 was rejected because "the author analysis models" did not have proper antecedent basis. The claims have been amended to include proper antecedent basis. Claim 15 was rejected for being indefinite. Claim 15 was amended to remove the indefiniteness. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the §112 rejections.

Applicants thank the Examiner for taking the time to conduct a personal interview on Monday, April 13, 2004 to discuss these rejections. During the interview, the Examiner indicated that claims 16 and 17 would be allowable over the current art of record subject to further search. Accordingly, Applicants have amended the independent claims, as shown above to include the features of claims 12 and 16 in claim 11 and the features of claims 12 and 17 in

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new claim 27. In view of these amendments, withdrawal of the art rejection is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that all dependent claims now depend on allowable independent claims.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the entire application is now in condition for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

All correspondence should be directed to the below address. Applicants' attorney can be reached by telephone at the number shown below.

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Enclosed is a check for \$55 for the One-Month Extension of Time fee. No other fee is believed to be due for this Response; however, if any other fees are due, please apply such fees to Deposit Account No. 06-1050 referencing Attorney Docket 11327-012001.

Respectfully submitted,

16 July 2004

Reg. No. 55,773

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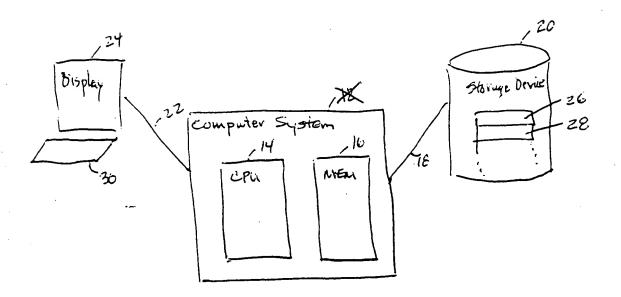
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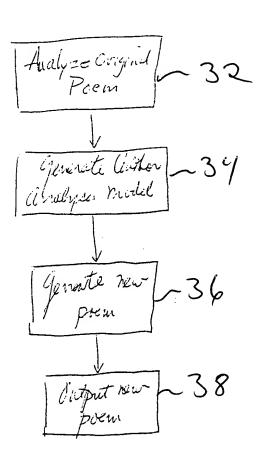


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F16.2